

Appl. No. 09/929,873  
Amdt. dated Aug 4, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of Jun 18, 2003

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Abstract has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, and the method claims 1 to 21 have been amended to state that the composites are ceramic metal composites as suggested by the Examiner. It is deemed that this is redundant since the claims as originally submitted specifically state that the composite is a ceramic having at least one metal integrally formed as part of the composite and recite the step of associating at least one metallic element with a polymeric ceramic precursor in forming said composite. However, to expedite issuance of a patent on this invention, the claims have been amended as noted and, as such, clearly overcome the rejections of the claims as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Also, claims 22 to 25 have been withdrawn, without prejudice to being presented in a divisional application, to expedite prosecution, it being noted that the Examiner has not specifically stated how such product claims, and particularly claims 24 and 25, would require a "unique search area and search" different for that of the method claims or explained in any manner how such search would be a serious burden so as to negate the provisions of Section 803 of the MPEP.

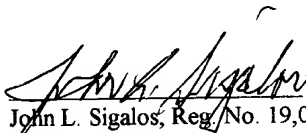
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No extended discussion is deemed necessary of the references cited by the Examiner since they have not been applied against the claims and a review of the same shows they are irrelevant to the inventions claimed.

Applicant hereby requests prompt passage of the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

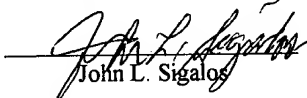
August 6, 2003

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the above-noted paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 6, 2003 as first above noted.

Date: August 6, 2003

  
John L. Sigalos